



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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SIMMONS ANNOUNCES HOUSE ARMED SERVICES HEARING ON MILITARY COMMISSIONS AND TRIBUNALS

Second District Lawmaker Calls For National Security Court System

WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today announced that on Wednesday, July 12 at 10 am the House Armed Services Committee will meet to receive testimony on standards of military commissions and tribunals. Simmons is Connecticut's only member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Witnesses will include:

- Mr. Steven Bradbury, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice.
- Mr. Daniel J. Dell'Orto, Principal Deputy General Counsel, Department of Defense.
- Honorable Theodore Olson, Former Solicitor General of the United States.
- Rear Admiral John Hutson, U.S. Navy (ret.), Dean, Franklin Pierce Law Center, Former Judge Advocate General, U.S. Navy

In response to Wednesday's congressional hearing, Simmons released the following statement:

*"The recent ruling in *Rumsfeld v. Hamdan* declared the military commissions at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba unlawful. Regardless of the controversy surrounding the ruling, the U.S. Government should explore fresh approaches that will comply with the court's ruling, properly adjudicate detainees, and ensure the support of the American public.*

"The President and Congress should examine the possibility of creating a National Security Court system, possibly as part of a broader commission. Scholars of international law have recently suggested just such an approach. The trials might look like a hybrid of our own federal court system and military trials -- like the war on terror, a mix of civil law enforcement and national defense. The goal would be to provide both a short-term and long-term answer to the question of how to detain and adjudicate suspected international terrorists.

"There are today about 900 detainees at Guantanamo Bay and Bagram, Afghanistan. It is critical that the U.S. Government process these detainees in a manner that protects the Nation's security as well as its reputation as the world's best champion of the rule of law."

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